



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
GRADUATION/DROPOUT PREVENTION TASKFORCE**

December 18, 2012 @ 3:00 p.m.

**Executive Tower
1700 W. Washington
3rd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Chair Merl Waschler, Rhian Allvin, Cathleen Barton, Patti Beltram, Rusty Bowers, Pearl Esau, Marv Lamer, Diane McCarthy, Co-chair Darcy Renfro, Dr. Amy Schlessman, and Carolyn Warner

Members Not Present: Mark Dobbins, Dan Brown, Amanda McAdams, Dr. Kent Scribner, and Dr. Jim Zaharis

Staff Present: Rebecca Gau, and Dale Frost

Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions

Merl Waschler called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. provided welcoming remarks and introduced the purpose of this meeting, which was to discuss the taskforce's efforts in 2013 and receive an update on the graduation rate research.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Diane McCarthy moved for the approval of the October 16, 2012 Task force meeting minutes as presented. Rhian Allvin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Update: Graduation Rate Research Plan

Chairman Waschler introduced Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation (GOEI) to review the Graduation Rate Research Plan. Ms. Gau updated the taskforce on current revisions to the research plan which includes an expansion on the school profiles and the makeup of the possible interview teams. Dr. Amy Schlessman commented at this time that with the Taskforce and research being focused on a four year graduation timeline it is important to remember that alternative schools and student do take longer than four years to graduate and with the implementation of common core and PARCC this type of enrollment may increase over the next few years. Cathleen Barton then advised that for purposes of this research study the Taskforce should focus on what gets a student to graduation in four years as opposed to five or even six. Task members then asked to add information to the research study to include percentage of 504 students who graduated without passing AIMS in successful schools. Ms. Gau then requested

feedback on the proposed data templates. Members discussed the templates and asked staff to add bar graphs to the template, add the specific graduation rate information for each school, and add test information past ninth grade.

Discussion: Taskforce 2013 Meeting Topics

Chairman Waschler introduced Rebecca Gau with GOEI to determine what the Task Force will be discussing for 2013. Ms. Gau requested that the next seven meetings be devoted to help flesh out each one of the recommendations. Members agreed to this course of action and asked staff to reorder the recommendations placing the CTE relevant recommendations back-to-back. Members also asked for a place holder in future meetings to allow for legislative updates as needed. Cathleen Barton asked to review post secondary completion with high school graduation in a future meeting. Dr. Amy Schlessman requested to present to the Task force on alternative schools also in a future meeting. This agenda item was not voted on by the Task Force Members; however Members did agree to the discussed topics for future meetings.

Discussion: Taskforce 2013 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Waschler introduced Rebecca Gau with GOEI to then discuss the possible meeting schedule for 2013. Members advised that they would like meetings to continue to be the third Tuesday of the month at 3:00pm. This agenda item was not voted on by the Task Force Members; however Members did agree to the 2013 schedule.

Council Comments

Chairman Waschler asked Task force members if there were any other topics they would like to discuss. Darcy Renfro asked for an update on the Skills Commission meeting. Ms. Warner advised that the state of Arizona efforts with essential employability skills has been recognized by both the US Department of Education and US Department of Labor as the only state making significant efforts in that area. Marv Lamer then advised that the business community was very engaged with the employability skills and was looking for additional focus on the career portion of “college and career ready”. Rusty Bowers advised that community businesses are looking for readable and usable data that displays and informs businesses on the state of education in Arizona.

Call to the Public

Michelle Gayles with Valley of the Sun United Way requested that in the research project the interview team includes interviews with principals and superintendents regarding transient populations.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Taskforce, Chairman Merl Waschler adjourned the meeting at 4:25pm.